

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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O R 151345Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6212
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YROK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1521

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF, PINS, PINT
SUBJECT: SCENARIO FOR JUNE 15- BLACK STUDENTS' DAY

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1490, 1500

1. IN A DISCUSSION WITH PERCY QOBOZA, EDITOR OF THE BLACK
NEWSPAPER "THE WORLD", HE PREDICTED TFOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR JUNE
16.

2. SITUATIN IN SOWETO IS LARGELY FOLLOWING LINES PREDICTED
REFTELS, WITH TSOTSISES ATTACKING AND ROBBING
DELIVERY VANS, STONING BUSES; STUDENTS MILLING ABOUT; WORKERS
CONFRONTED BY PRESSURES TO BOYCOTTEWORK, YET WARNED BY SOME THEY
EHAND TO LOSE PAY IF THEY DO SO. NO GROUP HAS YET BEEN ABLE TO
ASSERT ANY DISCIPLINE IN THE COMMUNITY AND, SO FAR, DISORGANIZATION
AND CONFUSION PREDOMINATE. OVER AND ABOVE THIS, THE MOOD OF
THE STUDENTS HAS DARKENED OVER THE DETENTIONS OF STUDENT REPRESEN-
TATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS. SOWETO POLICE CHIEF VISSER HAS HIS MEN OUT
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IN FD CE, BUT HAS HELD THEM IN THE BACKGROUND, AVOIDING CONFRONT-
TATIONS WITH STUDENTS. HE HAS TRIED TO CONFINE THE DESTRUCTIVE
ACTIVITY OF THE SSOTSISES WITHOUT ENGAGING IN POLITICAL CONFRON-
TATIONS, SO FAR WITH SOME SUCCESS. ALSO PRESENT ARE HEAVY NUMBERS
OF RIOT POLICE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE SECURITY BRANCH AND OVER THESE
VISSER APPARENTLY HAS LITTLE CONTROL.

3. ACCORDING TO QOBOZA, TOMMOROW, JUNE 16, MANY WORKERS WILL FIND IT NECESSARY TO REJECT THE BOYCOTT CALL AND COME TO WORK. TSOTSIES WILL INTERFERE AND THE POLICE WILL INTERVENE TO PROTECT THE WORKERS (RIOT/SECURITY POLICE HEAD KRIEL HAS ALREADY WARNED HIS MEN WILL DO JUST THAT). FIGHTING WILL BREAK OUT AND THE POLICE WILL BE CALLED IN TO BREAK UP THE DISTURBANCE. FROM THEN ON, QOBOZA PREDICTS, IT WILL BE A SERIES OF TOUGH AND GO SITUATIONS WHERE THE POLICE WILL FIND THEMSELVES JUMPING FROM PLACE TO PLACE TRYING TO CONTAIN THE DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. QOBOZA STATED POLICE CHIEF VISSER CALLED ON HIM EARLIER THIS WEEK (AT QOBOZA'S INVITATION) TO TALK ABOUT THE "TRAGEDY OF THE SITUATION". QOBOZA CONFIRMED THE ANALYSIS OF VISSER'S DILEMMA AS REPORTED REFTELS AND REMARKED VISSDR DESCRIBED SECURITY BRANCH AS 'GESTAPO'. VISSER FEELS THE SITUATION IS LARGEY "OUT OF CONTROL" AND THE FAULT LIES WITH THE DECISION TO REMOVE THE SSRC LEADERSHIP WITH WHOM VISSER HAD WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS. QOBOZA ADDED THAT VISSER FEELS NOW THAT THE SSRC LEADERS ARE LOCKED UP AND THE SECURITY BRANCH ARE OUT IN SUCH FORCE THE SITUATIN (FOR VISSER) IS "OUT OF HIS HANDS".

KIRBY

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